

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and Listings of Claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) A foot-receiving device ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:
a housing member at least partially defining a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;
a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the housing member, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element, and wherein the first engagement element includes a pocket defined in or provided on the tongue member; and
a cover member for at least partially covering the closure system, wherein the cover member includes a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member, and wherein the second engagement element is at least partially slidably receivable in the pocket.
3. (Currently Amended) A foot-receiving device according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the cover member further includes a cover element extending from the second engagement element, wherein the cover element includes a free end that extends so as to at least partially cover the closure system.
4. (Currently Amended) A foot-receiving device ~~according to claim 3~~, comprising:
a housing member at least partially defining a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;
a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the housing member, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element; and
a cover member for at least partially covering the closure system, wherein the cover member includes a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member, wherein the cover member further includes a cover element extending from the second engagement element, wherein the cover element includes a

free end that extends so as to at least partially cover the closure system, and wherein the cover element includes a first fastener element that engages with a second fastener element provided on the tongue member so as to releasably secure the cover element to the tongue member.

5. (Original) A foot-receiving device according to claim 3, wherein the closure system includes a shoe lace, and the cover element includes a pair of openings defined therein, wherein a first end of the shoe lace extends through a first opening of the pair and a second end of the shoe lace extends through a second opening of the pair to releasably engage the cover member with the closure system.

6. (Currently Amended) A foot-receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the cover member further includes a first securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system.

7. (Currently Amended) A foot-receiving device ~~according to claim 6~~, comprising:
a housing member at least partially defining a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;
a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the housing member, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element, and wherein the tongue member further includes a ~~second~~ first securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system; and
a cover member for at least partially covering the closure system, wherein the cover member includes a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member, and wherein the cover member further includes a second securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system.

8. (Original) A foot-receiving device according to claim 7, wherein the closure system includes a shoe lace; wherein the first securing mechanism includes a first pair of openings defined in the cover member, wherein the shoe lace extends through the first pair of openings; and wherein the second securing mechanism includes a second pair of openings defined in the tongue member, wherein the shoe lace extends through the second pair of openings.

9. (Original) A foot-receiving device according to claim 8, wherein the first pair of openings is located adjacent to the second pair of openings when the first securing mechanism and the second securing mechanism are engaged with the closure system.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear ~~according to claim 10~~, comprising:
a sole member;
an upper extending from the sole member, wherein the upper at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;
a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the chamber, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element, and wherein the first engagement element includes a pocket defined in or provided on the tongue member; and
a cover member for at least partially covering the closure system, wherein the cover member includes a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member, and wherein the second engagement element is at least partially slidably receivable in the pocket.

12. (Original) A piece of footwear according to claim 11, wherein the tongue member includes a free end, and wherein the pocket includes an open end located proximate to the free end of the tongue member.

13. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear according to claim ~~10~~ 11, wherein the cover member further includes a cover element extending from the second engagement element, wherein the cover element includes a free end that extends so as to at least partially cover the closure system.

14. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear ~~according to claim 13~~, comprising:
a sole member;
an upper extending from the sole member, wherein the upper at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;

a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the chamber, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element; and
a cover member for at least partially covering the closure system, wherein the cover member includes a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member, wherein the cover member further includes a cover element extending from the second engagement element, wherein the cover element includes a free end that extends so as to at least partially cover the closure system, and wherein the cover element includes a first fastener element that engages with a second fastener element provided on the tongue member so as to releasably secure the cover element to the tongue member.

15. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear according to claim ~~10~~ 11, wherein the cover member further includes a first securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system.

16. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear ~~according to claim 15, comprising:~~
a sole member;
an upper extending from the sole member, wherein the upper at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;
a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the chamber, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element, and
wherein the tongue member further includes a ~~second~~ first securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system; and
a cover member for at least partially covering the closure system, wherein the cover member includes a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member, and wherein the cover member further includes a second securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system.

17. (Original) A piece of footwear according to claim 16, wherein the closure system includes a shoe lace; wherein the first securing mechanism includes a first pair of openings defined in the cover member, wherein the shoe lace extends through the first pair of openings; and wherein

the second securing mechanism includes a second pair of openings defined in the tongue member, wherein the shoe lace extends through the second pair of openings.

18. (Original) A piece of footwear according to claim 17, wherein the first pair of openings is located adjacent to the second pair of openings when the first securing mechanism and the second securing mechanism are engaged with the closure system.

19. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear according to claim ~~10~~ 11, wherein the piece of footwear is a piece of athletic footwear.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear ~~according to claim 20~~, comprising:
a sole member;
an upper extending from the sole member, wherein the upper at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;
a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the chamber, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element, and wherein the first engagement element includes a pocket defined in or provided on the tongue member; and
a cover member that includes: (a) a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member; (b) a cover element that extends from the second engagement element, wherein the cover element includes a free end that extends to at least partially cover the closure system, and wherein the second engagement element is at least partially slidably receivable in the pocket; and (c) a first securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system.

22. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear ~~according to claim 20~~, comprising:
a sole member;
an upper extending from the sole member, wherein the upper at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;

a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the chamber, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element; and
a cover member that includes: (a) a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member; (b) a cover element that extends from the second engagement element, wherein the cover element includes a free end that extends to at least partially cover the closure system, and wherein the cover element includes a first fastener element that engages with a second fastener element provided on the tongue member so as to releasably secure the cover element to the tongue member; and (c) a first securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system.

23. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear according to claim ~~20~~ 21, wherein the first securing mechanism forms part of the second engagement element.

24. (Currently Amended) A piece of footwear ~~according to claim 20, comprising:~~
a sole member;
an upper extending from the sole member, wherein the upper at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot;
a closure system for at least partially holding the foot in the chamber;
a tongue member located between at least a portion of the closure system and the foot when the foot is held in the chamber, wherein the tongue member includes a first engagement element, and wherein the tongue member further includes a ~~second~~ first securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system; and

a cover member that includes: (a) a second engagement element that engages with the first engagement element to removably engage the cover member with the tongue member; (b) a cover element that extends from the second engagement element, wherein the cover element includes a free end that extends to at least partially cover the closure system; and (c) a second securing mechanism that engages with at least a portion of the closure system.

25. (Original) A piece of footwear according to claim 24, wherein the closure system includes a shoe lace; wherein the first securing mechanism includes a first pair of openings defined in the cover member, wherein the shoe lace extends through the first pair of openings at least one

time; and wherein the second securing mechanism includes a second pair of openings defined in the tongue member, wherein the shoe lace extends through the second pair of openings at least one time.

26. (Original) A piece of footwear according to claim 25, wherein the first pair of openings is located adjacent to the second pair of openings when the first securing mechanism and the second securing mechanism are engaged with the closure system.

27. (Original) A piece of footwear according to claim 25, wherein the shoe lace extends through the first pair of openings at least two times, and wherein the shoe lace extends through the second pair of openings at least two times.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 28~~, comprising:
providing a foot-receiving device including a housing member that at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot, a closure system, and a tongue member;

removably engaging a first engagement element of the tongue member with a second engagement element provided with a cover member for the closure system, wherein the first engagement element includes a pocket defined in or provided with the tongue member, and wherein the engaging includes sliding at least a portion of the second engagement element into the pocket;
and

placing a cover element of the cover member over at least a portion of the closure system to thereby at least partially cover the closure system.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~28~~ 29, further comprising:
releasably securing the cover element to the tongue member.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein the releasably securing includes engaging a first fastener element provided on the cover element with a second fastener element provided on the tongue member.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~28~~ 29, further comprising:
releasably engaging the cover member with at least a portion of the closure system.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 32, wherein the releasably engaging the cover member with the closure system includes extending a first end of a shoe lace of the closure system

through a pair of openings defined in the cover member and extending a second end of the shoe lace through the pair of openings.

34. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~according to claim 32, further~~ comprising:
providing a foot-receiving device including a housing member that at least partially defines a chamber for receiving a foot, a closure system, and a tongue member;
removably engaging a first engagement element of the tongue member with a second engagement element provided with a cover member for the closure system;
placing a cover element of the cover member over at least a portion of the closure system to thereby at least partially cover the closure system;
releasably engaging the cover member with at least a portion of the closure system; and
releasably engaging the tongue member with at least a portion of the closure system.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the releasably engaging the cover member with the closure system includes extending a first end of a shoe lace of the closure system through a first pair of openings defined in the cover member and extending a second end of the shoe lace through the first pair of openings, and wherein the releasably engaging the tongue member with the closure system includes extending the first end of the shoe lace through a second pair of openings defined in the tongue member and extending the second end of the shoe lace through the second pair of openings.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 35, wherein the first pair of openings are located adjacent to the second pair of openings when the cover member and the tongue member are engaged with the closure system.

37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~28~~ 29, further comprising:
disengaging the cover member from the tongue member.

38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~28~~ 29, wherein the foot-receiving device is a piece of footwear.